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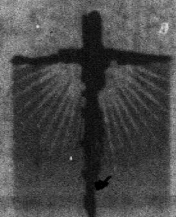
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Missions leader Rankin to retire

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP and local reports) — Native Mississippian Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention, announced September 16 he will retire at the end of July 2010 and return to the state, ending a 17-year tenure marked by sweeping organizational changes and a steady personal calling.

"Everything I have done has been driven by an unequivocal sense of a call to missions, to make my life count and to make the greatest impact possible on reaching a lost world for Jesus Christ," Rankin told IMB trustees during his report at their Sept. 15-16 meeting in Jacksonville, Fla.

When Rankin took over leadership of the IMB in 1993, the Southern Baptist mission organization saw nearly 4,000 missionaries help start more than 2,000 churches in 142 countries. Last year more than 5,500 IMB missionaries helped plant nearly 27,000 churches and engaged 101 new people groups for a total of 1,190 engaged people groups.

The move from tracking countries to focusing on people groups reveals another area where Rankin worked to change the IMB. Country counts faded during the past 10 years as the organization shifted to finding the best ways to engage new people groups and population centers.

"I think moving us to a people group focus helped us learn to innovate," he said, "but probably the most radical innovation of all has been the process of moving us to a mobilization perspective."

"To mobilize and involve churches and Southern Baptists rather than our doing missions on behalf of Southern Baptists is an innovation that we have been pursuing for the past 12 years. The whole mobilization perspective is where we are going. That's the hope of the future of missions."

Rankin said he was surprised and overwhelmed when a 15-member trustee search committee asked him to become the IMB's next leader in 1993.

"I felt so inadequate to the task, and I certainly didn't come with a vision of 'Here's my agenda. Here's how we are going to reach the whole world,' but it was one of, 'OK, Lord, I'm Your servant. I'm available. What do You want to do through the IMB?'"

Rankin and his wife, the former Bobbye Simmons, also a native Mississippian, are members of the Hall of Fame at Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton.

"Although we have been away from Mississippi for a long time, every occasion for returning has that 'coming home' feel-



RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT — An emotional Jerry and Bobbye Rankin receive a standing ovation from International Mission Board trustees on September 16 after Jerry Rankin's announcement that he will retire as president of the Southern Baptist missions agency in July 2010. (BP photo)

ing," Jerry Rankin said in a statement to The Baptist Record. "Having been all over the world and having experienced a cosmopolitan life of diverse cultures, the catfish and collard greens keep drawing us back. Not only do we relish being back among those characterized by neighborly hospitality, we are looking forward to basing our next stage of ministry among churches who love missions and nurtured us in our personal call and walk with the Lord."

"I have always been proud of my Tupelo birthplace and my Clinton roots. From my profession of faith in 1952 at a Billy Graham crusade at Tiger Stadium behind Bailey Junior High School in Jackson until our appointment as missionaries to Indonesia in 1970, we were discipled and nurtured in our heart for a lost world among mission-minded Mississippi Baptists."

"Not only did Mississippi College provide me with the foundational education for ministry, it is where I met my wife, Bobbye Simmons, from Brookhaven. We could never have envisioned the course our life would take and the ways God would eventually use us; we simply sought to be obedient as He expanded opportunities for service and leadership."

"We anticipate a new era of significant service in the future and look forward to returning to Mississippi for our base of ministry."

The Rankins were appointed missionaries to Indonesia in June 1970. They studied

language in Bandung, Indonesia, and he served as a general evangelist in two other Indonesian locations.

Rankin also consulted in evangelism and church growth in India, served as associate to the area director for South and Southeast Asia, and then as administrator for mission work in India. He became area director for Southern Asia and the Pacific, where he oversaw the work of 480 missionaries in 15 countries.

"I never anticipated that I would move beyond a niche where God had called us to serve as missionaries in Indonesia," Rankin told the trustees.

"It made no sense for a field missionary who had been overseas for 23 years to be selected over others who were far more qualified and at a peak of controversy regarding control of leadership roles among Southern Baptist Convention entities."

"I had not even attended a Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting until the year prior to my election. I reluctantly accepted the role [as president], not out of any desire for status or reputation and certainly not for a denominational administration role, but only to make the greatest impact on reaching a lost world that my life could make."

Rankin said he believes IMB stands on the verge of unprecedented opportunities to complete the task of engaging every nation, people, and language with the Gospel.

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A most valuable member of the team

Pick any church, and chances are there's a most valuable member of the team there who often gets taken for granted even though the church couldn't do without her. Is she the faithful, 30-year organist? Certainly that lady is valuable, but she isn't the person. How about the WMU president, who rallies the troops and helps manage so many important programs around the church? Another good guess, but wrong again.

The answer is: The Minister's Wife. As if to make the point any more unmistakable, far too many of us are probably thinking right now, "Oops! The minister is married, isn't he? I must have forgotten." Yes, the minister is married, and, to the surprise of a lot of folks, he is married to a living, breathing human being with feelings. Sadly, we tend to forget that.

Where would we be without this faithful tribe known as ministers' wives? Who else would work the nursery when the regular workers have the flu? Who else would anchor the women's section of the choir? Who else would set up the Wednesday evening meal and clean up afterwards, without complaint while the rest of us act as if we're patrons in a restaurant? Who else would be willing to take on all these responsibilities while their husband prays, studies, and prepares to address the congregation each week?

Whether in a church with a single staffer — the pastor — or a church with a dozen or more ministers, these behind-the-scenes worker bees are often the real reason that church events go so smoothly.

Ministers' duties often mean postponing or even canceling the relationship time between a husband and wife that so many of the rest of us take for granted. Much-anticipated (and much-needed) vacations are disrupted so the minister can return to town to preach a funeral. When the normal problems of raising children in our sin-filled culture show up in the minister's

family, his wife knows that he is frequently somewhere else ministering to some other parents or counseling someone else's children.

All too often, she bears these personal burdens alone. The same goes for problems at church and the comments of inconsiderate people who are unnecessarily critical of her husband's ministry or harsh about her family's shortcomings which — unlike most of the rest of us — are committed in a fishbowl for all to see. They seldom ask for help and never expect pity.

Liz Curtis Higgs, author of the best-selling book *Bad Girls of the Bible*, had special words of encouragement for women in general and ministers' wives in particular at the Ministers' Wives Conference luncheon on June 17, 2003, during the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Phoenix. Her words still ring true today.

"Does it not thrill you that (women) are God's crown of creation?" she asked. "We are the last thing He made, and He said we are very good. Women were not an afterthought; we were uniquely created and uniquely equipped. I love to encourage women to embrace that and run with it."

"(Women) do carry a lot of burdens, and you may think it's your job as a minister's wife to carry people's burdens. We put it in a backpack and tell God, 'I got it,' but wouldn't it just be awesome if you could just lay your burdens down for 40 minutes? Why don't you just throw it at the foot of the cross? He says, 'Take my yoke upon

you.' He's going to carry the weight of it; He's just asking you to walk with Him."

As fellow travelers on the Christian journey with them, we must make it a priority to minister to these beautiful sisters every day as well as when they and their families are hurting. They need to know that we are praying for them, and they need to know that we too are willing to lighten their enormous load.

Pray it, and then show by your actions and conduct that you meant it when you prayed it. You can be sure there is a most valuable member of your team out there who won't soon forget it.

"RULE #1 FOR EFFECTIVENESS IN THE PASTORAL MINISTRY: MARRY WELL."



Miss. Baptist churches see significant anniversaries

CLINTON, Ms. (Special) — The Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission, headquartered on the campus of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton, has announced that a total of 56 churches in the Mississippi Baptist Convention will celebrate significant anniversaries in 2010.

Significant anniversaries are 200 years, 175 years, 150 years, 125 years, and 100 years. Churches celebrating significant anniversaries in 2010 represent a combined 7,425 years of service in Kingdom work.

The Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission assists churches in observing significant anniversaries and has scheduled a one-day workshop on church anniversaries for February 6.

"Churches that are celebrating significant anniversaries in 2010, 2011, and 2012, are encouraged to attend the February 6 workshop, due to the fact that the next

workshop will not be held until 2012," said Edward McMillan, MBHC executive secretary.

The churches celebrating significant anniversaries in 2010, followed by the Baptist association with which the church is affiliated, include:

175 years

Bethlehem, Choctaw
Emory, Holmes
Fellowship, Webster
First Brandon, Rankin
First Louisville, Winston
Hephzibah, Clarke
Mashulaville, Noxubee
Phalti, Clarke
Union, Panola

150 years

Antioch, Lawrence
Central Grove, Monroe
County Line, Jones
Elam, Yalobusha
First Morton, Scott
First Water Valley, Yalobusha

Friendship East, North Central

Hamilton, Benton-Tippah
Harmony, Benton-Tippah
Macedonia, Lauderdale
Spring Hill, Copiah
Springville, Pontotoc

125 years

Ackerman, Choctaw
Bluff Springs, Kemper
Bogue Chitto, Lincoln
Camden, Metro
Center Grove, Lauderdale
Centerville, Walthall
Centerville, Mississippi
College Hill, Calhoun
First Union, Newton
Heidelberg, Jasper
Hopewell, New Choctaw
Linn, Mid Delta
Long Creek, Lauderdale
Moselle Memorial, Jones
Pilgrims Rest, Panola
Providence, Choctaw
Shady Grove, Smith
Shiloh, Marion
Sturgis, Golden Triangle

Tillatoba, Yalobusha
Unity, Attala
Victory,
Covington-Jeff Davis

100 years

Athens, Monroe
Bethel, Rankin
Corinth, Simpson
Eucutta, Wayne
First Moss, Jasper
First Sledge, North Delta
Love Joy, Alcorn
Meadville, Franklin
New Prospect, Lafayette
Oak Grove, Holmes
Pineburr, Marion
Springfield, Leake
Trinity Hernando,
X-tended Missions

For more information or to
report a church not on the list,
contact MBHC at P.O. Box 4020,
Clinton, MS 39058. Telephone:
(601) 925-3434. E-mail:
mbhc@mc.edu.

LifeWay trustees meet, hear division reports

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP and local reports) — 2009 can be an uncommonly good year in ministry for LifeWay Christian Resources, but the economic downturn will continue to challenge the organization in 2010, according to executives of the Southern Baptist entity in their reports at the September 14-15 semiannual trustee meeting.

Thom S. Rainer, president of the Nashville-based publishing arm of the Southern Baptist Convention, told trustees that despite widespread despair across the country, the people of God have great hope and should seize this opportunity to move forward in ministry.

Drawing from Jeremiah 29, in which the exiles of Judah had lost hope of returning home, Rainer said there is always hope for God's people. "There is no such thing as no hope when your hope is in God," he told trustees at LifeWay's Ridgecrest Conference Center near Asheville, N.C.

Chief Financial Officer Jerry Rhyne provided a candid appraisal of the business outlook: "The economy is a mess, and 38% of the nation's chief financial officers do not expect the recovery to begin until at least April of 2010." He added that consumer confidence continues to wane and U.S. executives worry most about being able to forecast financial trends.

Despite the gloomy outlook, Rhyne said LifeWay's financial health is good, citing a strong balance sheet, no debt, a strong and diverse customer base, and other key factors. "LifeWay is a ministry funded by a business model," Rhyne said, "but that model needs to be adjusted from time to time." For example, LifeWay has budgeted no salary increases for 2010 and is holding the line on prices for most literature to help struggling churches.

"It's important for Southern Baptists to know that LifeWay

has never received Cooperative Program dollars," Rhyne said. "In addition, LifeWay is self-supporting, and we invest a significant amount in ministries at home and around the world."

Church Resources Division

Vice President John Kramp said his division's ministry is to know churches, love churches by being their advocates, and help people through local church ministries. In this pursuit, the division continues to develop research-based ministry strategies, such as Threads, Connect Conferences, and Beach Reach for young adults, he said.

LifeWay has continued to expand LifeWay Worship by launching WorshipMap Pro, an online tool for planning worship services that integrates with LifeWayWorship.com, the new Baptist Hymnal and other recently launched resources.

Kramp also highlighted The Seven Words of Worship, a new study by Mike Harland, director of LifeWay Worship and a former Mississippi Baptist worship leader, to help churches develop a biblical understanding of worship.

Kramp also said the division is expanding its ministry to African American churches through the YOU curriculum and Be The Man conferences. Increased ministry continues with Hispanic churches as the division completes a year-long research project that has resulted in Vacation Bible School resources in Spanish and an expanded line of dated and undated resources for all age groups.

LifeWay Christian Stores

"By God's grace and the hard work of our team members, we've seen wonderful ministry results in 2009," Vice President Mark Scott said. "These results were accomplished during a

very difficult period in the American economy, so we know the Lord has sustained us through what's become known as the Great Recession."

Scott said his division has responded strategically to national economic realities. First, the stores have emphasized Christian resources that address people's felt needs. Second, they have responded to tighter consumer and church spending with strong offers that create value for customers. Third, they have responded to retail customers by offering strong and frequent promotional events.

There are now 152 LifeWay Christian Stores across the nation, including six in Mississippi: Gulfport, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Meridian, Southaven, and Tupelo.

B&H Publishing Group

Vice President Brad Waggoner updated trustees on the success of The Love Dare, the trade book featured in the Christian movie Fireproof. Far exceeding expectations, The Love Dare became a New York Times best-seller, spending 52 weeks at the No. 2 spot. More importantly, Waggoner said, the book has resulted in countless saved marriages.

Waggoner also highlighted the continued success of the Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB), distinguished for its accuracy and readability. B&H is working toward a fall 2010 release of the HCSB Study Bible and is developing other HCSB resources.

Executive Communications

Vice President Tom Hellams highlighted several "touchpoints," ways in which the division is engaging people in ministry. "We should be greatly encouraged by ministry at LifeWay as our people go to the very ends of the earth," Hellams said in reference to LifeWay's employee-led mission trips — seven of them this year, including participation in the national motorcycle rally at Sturgis, S.D. Partnering with the Dakota Baptist Convention, a LifeWay team of 15 shared testimonies with bikers and led 115 to Christ.

Holman Bible Outreach International continues to

support the work of Southern Baptist entities such as the North American Mission Board's Evangelism Response Center, and supplies Bibles for soldiers deployed around the world while also raising the visibility of the Holman Christian Standard Bible.

Technology

Vice President Tim Vineyard reported the successful launch of a new warehouse management system that already has resulted in faster processing and more efficient service and cost savings for LifeWay and its customers. Vineyard outlined innovations that are leading to new opportunities and solutions for LifeWay's ministries, among them:

- LifeWayWorship.com, a digital music site.
- CrossBooks Publishing, a new print-on-demand venture that combines the best of traditional and self-publishing.
- Next Coaching Networks, a structured coach/team approach for lead pastors to address universal strategic principles of leadership, organization, and implementation.
- a variety of iPhone applications such as The Love Dare eBook.

Finance and Business

Vice President Jerry Rhyne reported that the economic slowdown has impacted LifeWay's two conference centers: Ridgecrest in North Carolina and Glorieta in New Mexico. Ministry groups are still coming but are bringing fewer people, he said.

Glorieta is preparing to remain open year-round but will focus on smaller ministries and events during the winter months. The camps at Ridgecrest have defied the economic downturn, Rhyne noted, citing record camp attendance this year resulting in the fifth consecutive year of camp revenue growth.

LifeWay Research

Director Ed Stetzer updated trustees on the organization's recent research efforts and future plans. "At the heart of LifeWay Research is a desire to help churches understand and engage a lost world more effectively," Stetzer said.

Looking back

10 years ago

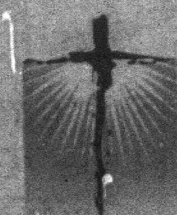
Larry Kennedy is inaugurated before a standing-room only crowd Sept. 23 as the eighth president of William Carey College in Hattiesburg.

20 years ago

Mt. Zion Church, Lincoln Association, captures the third annual National Fellowship of Baptist Men's Softball Championship in Jackson. Mt. Zion lost the first game of the tournament by one run to Bellevue Church, Memphis, and had to win six consecutive games to claim the title.

30 years ago

Three hundred people from Hinds County churches attended the fifth annual Training Awards Banquet held Sept. 12 at First Church, Jackson.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Opponents ahead

AUGUSTA, Maine (BP) — A ballot initiative that would overturn Maine's recently passed same sex marriage law has a slight lead in a new poll, although it's well within the margin of error. According to the poll by Research 2000 commissioned by the liberal blog DailyKos.com, Question 1 leads by a margin of 48-46%. The poll interviewed 600 likely voters Sept. 14-16 and has a margin of error of plus or minus four percent. If passed, Question 1 — in effect a referendum known as a people's veto — would reverse a new same sex marriage law passed by the Democratic legislature and signed by the Democratic governor. It has yet to take effect and won't do so until voters have a say. The poll seems to have good news for Question 1 supporters not only because they have a slight lead but also because the poll was conducted after opponents had been airing TV ads for approximately two weeks and just as supporters were beginning their ad campaign. In addition, the poll question seemed to have been worded in a negative way that favored opponents of Question 1. It read, in part: "A yes vote takes away the right of same-sex couples to marry. A no vote keeps the right of same-sex couples to marry. If the election were held today would you vote YES or NO on this question?" For more information on Question 1, visit StandForMarriageMaine.com.

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By Charles Marx, 1932-2004
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LOS WC QLZS MONE
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NWC BPQNCHP EV NWC
XZOUSEB EV UES: DMN
MONE NWCB NWLN
LHC RZNWEMN, LAA
NWCQC NWZOUQ LHC
SEOC ZO GLHLDACQ.

BLHX VEMH: CACICO

Clue: U=C

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Three Sixteen

GET OUT OF MY WAY!

It oftentimes seems that when God's people are trying to move forward, invariably somebody gets in the way. There are times when pastors feel that everything they try to do is blocked and barricaded by somebody getting in the way. On the other hand, I have known of times in church life that the people energetically and passionately wanted to do something or move in a new direction, only to be stymied by the pastor. I was reminded recently by an experience on the highway that not everybody who is in your way, is in your way. Maybe you have had a similar experience.

The other day I was traveling on the Interstate highway and was behind an 18-wheeler in the left lane. He was traveling about 10 - 15 miles per hour under the speed limit, and I felt like I was in a big hurry. Just to the right of the 18-wheeler was a small vehicle. We were all going about the same speed. After we had traveled several miles - me behind the 18-wheeler, and the car to the right in its same place - I was wishing that somebody would pull off, stop, or get out of the way. They did not. I wanted to get around and get on with my trip, but there was no way to do it. Finally, with my blood pressure slightly elevated and my frustration continuing to grow, I pulled over in the right lane behind the small car that was not going anywhere either. When I got there, I could see that in front of the small car was another car and another car. No doubt, they were all frustrated too. From that vantage point, I could also see there were some vehicles in front of the big truck that I had been following and, no doubt, he was wishing that they would get out of his way.

Do you get the picture? Here we are all traveling down the highway going considerably less than the speed limit. All the people that I wanted to get out of my way had people in their way that they were trying to get around. I thought to myself, "What a lesson in leadership." Not everybody, but some that may be in your way, are dealing with issues that slow them down. It helps to understand that. Through the years as a pastor, I have observed as I tried to lead God's people that oftentimes there were significant, quality people in the congregation who were seemingly with me. Apparently, they felt the same way that I did, only they could see from a different vantage point and recognized the people who may have been slowing them down. The fact is, you have to recognize that and you have to deal with those people too. You have to help them to understand, to see, and to clarify. Then you may be able to get on down the road.

Sadly, I have watched what is not a particularly uncommon problem, and that is the pastor, staff member, or someone begins to honk their spiritual horn, wave their arms, and tell the fellow in front of them to get out of the way, only to find out he was on the same road, thinking the same thing that you were thinking, and wanting to help. The problem is, you may create a problem with him or her that is more difficult to overcome than the fellow that is up in front of them.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Maybe something like that is what took place in the book of Acts, chapter 15, when Paul was about to embark on his second missionary journey. John Mark shows up ready to go on the mission, and Paul was convinced that he had been a blockade in the first missionary journey. We are not sure exactly what took place on that first mission effort that caused John Mark to come back home, but whatever it was did not sit well with Paul, and so he and Barnabas locked horns. They clashed with each other and were upset over the major dispute between them. It is certainly not in Scripture, but you can almost hear the Apostle Paul in the far distance saying, "Would you just get out of my way? Both of you get out of my way." As you know, Paul and Silas went off on the missionary journey and Barnabas and Mark went in another direction. The sad thing is that all of them were committed to the same Jesus, wanting to honor Him and reach a world, but they could not see the best way to get down the path to accomplish the task.

Later in his ministry, the Apostle Paul requested that Mark be brought to him because he was profitable in the ministry. Maybe this great apostle recognized the worth, value, abilities, and heart of Mark and, seeing a broader landscape than before, he came to understand that Mark was not standing in his way, blocking his progress, and preventing the work from being accomplished. There were other issues at work, and Mark was a great servant indeed.

I think it is noteworthy to realize that it is not always a wise thing to "blow our horn" at the motives or attitudes of a big old truck that is in front of us. As I drove along and could only see the back end of an 18-wheeler, I thought this guy was probably driving slow and staying in my lane to block me and maybe to some degree just to irritate me. It was not true. He was stuck where he was, and if he could have, he would have done something different.

It is worthwhile to remember that while each of us wants other people to recognize our insights, abilities, and spiritual depth, we need to do likewise with those who are around us and especially in front of us. You can roll down your window and scream all you want to tell the fellow in front of you to get out of the way, but it probably will not happen. Besides that, the guy may be at the point of screaming too. So let up a little bit on the gas of life, keep your focus, and gently, slowly, yet ever so meaningfully, move forward. It will make a difference.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light, and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 24, 2009

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



Mississippi Bivocational
Ministers Association

Bivo Council & Banquet during Convention

Brothers, smart ladies and friends ... we have a big day planned at the start of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Our council will convene at 3 p.m. on Monday, October 26, 2009, in the Skyroom on the 4th floor.

All Mississippi bivocational/small church **MINISTERS AND THEIR WIVES** are invited to a **BANQUET AND DIALOGUE** at 5 p.m. We will break at 6:30 to attend the Pastors Conference at FBC, Jackson.

Please E-mail or call Kay McDonnell (kmcdonnell@mbcb.org or 601.292.3305; 1.800.748.1651, ext. 305) to confirm your attendance.

THERE IS NO COST FOR THE MEAL. THIS EVENT IS UNDERWRITTEN BY THE PASTOR/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD.

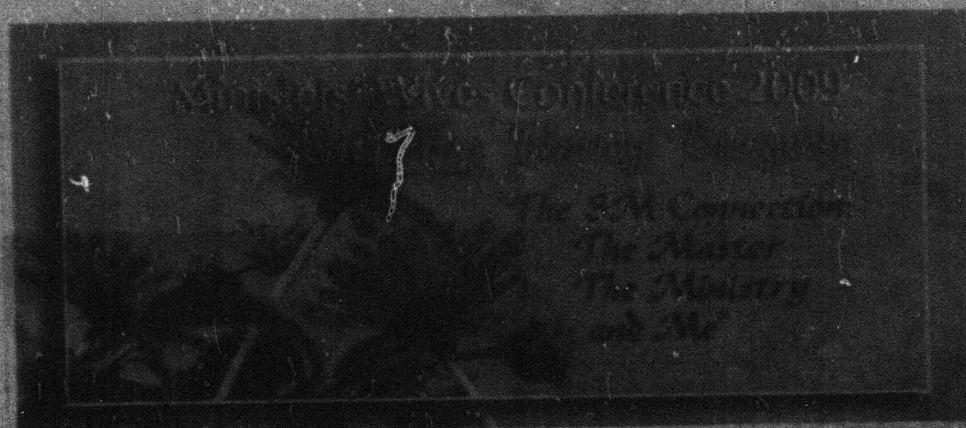
Your Margaret Lackey gifts assisted over 3,200 volunteers serve the Lord in 64 nations last year.

Encourage your church to participate in the offering this Fall.



WHEREVER HE LEADS

Margaret Lackey, Offering for State Missions



Ministers' Wives Conference

Monday, October 26, 2009, 1:15 – 4:45 p.m.
First Baptist Church Chapel, Jackson

Nancy Burgess
Guest Speaker

"When Nancy speaks, I feel as if I just sat down with my favorite friend for a long overdue talk. Our hearts connected and I felt the love of God through her words." – a recent conference attendee

Nancy is founder and director of Heart and Soul Connection, a national, cross-denominational lifeline ministry for ministers' wives and their families.

The joy of the Lord is her strength, and it radiates from Nancy Burgess like neon. Attracting hearts like a Krispy Kreme "Hot Now" sign, Nancy's authenticity, transparency, and "approach-ability" endear her to people from all walks of life in her quest to bring unbelievers to Christ and to encourage believers to walk in the Truth.

Nancy's heart and passion is to enthusiastically share, with humor, warmth, and honesty, Christ's hope, encouragement, and healing with other women. Her testimony includes God's reforming and renewing work in her life at a time of consuming depression and complete brokenness. Her joy is teaching God's Word and His precepts, and communicating His constancy and faithfulness.

A pastor's wife since 1970, and a mother of one grown daughter, Nancy has previously served as Ministers' Wives Specialist for the Georgia Baptist Convention; Women's Ministry Coordinator for the Atlanta Metro Baptist Association; and contract consultant for LeaderCare of LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, Tennessee. Nancy is founder and director of Heart and Soul Connection, a national, cross-denominational lifeline ministry for ministers' wives and their families.

Nancy has been featured on many media venues, including CNN's "Live From ...," "Nancy Grace," "Paula Zahn," and MSNBC's "Rita Cosby" as an expert on the unique stresses of ministry wives and their families. She has been a frequent guest on "Atlanta Live" and also appeared on CN8 and Family Net. Nancy is well-versed in a wide variety of statistics concerning unexpected realities of life in ministry.

Registration

Preregistration is encouraged so that we may better prepare.

- Phone: 800.748.1651, ext. 305, or 601.292.3305
- E-mail: kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

Pastor/Leadership Development Department

2010 Baptist Doctrine Study



SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

Preview Study and Brunch

Wayne Van Horn

Dean, School of Christian Studies
Mississippi College

MONDAY, JANUARY 18

Lauderdale Baptist Association Office
Marion, Miss.

MONDAY, JANUARY 25

Sky Room, Baptist Bldg.

515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, Miss.

9 a.m. – noon (for both studies)



LifeWay
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Course
Book

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The demands of student ministry pull us in many directions. Trying to balance a schedule that pulls us in all directions can be overwhelming at times. Mississippi Baptists' annual Student Minister's Retreat is a time to be refreshed and renewed.

Whether you're looking to sharpen your student ministry skills, find personal spiritual renewal, meet other student ministers from our state, or just to reconnect with your friends in student ministry – Tiak O'Khata is the place to do it. I hope you'll join us Nov. 9-11!

Ken Hall, Student Ministry Consultant MBCE

For more information: Ken Hall, 601-292-3286

Special Guests:
Phill Newberry
Tom Edwards
Jon Daniels

Student Minister's Retreat

Seminary Extension

THE PASTOR/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

will host a breakfast for SEMINARY EXTENSION AND ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS DIRECTORS on Tuesday October 27, 2009, at 7 a.m. in the Baptist Building Chapel.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!!!

Interim Pastor Training



Hebron BC
Grenada
November 9
9 a.m. - noon



LED BY:

Alan Woodward

Director
MBCB Pastor/Leadership Development Department

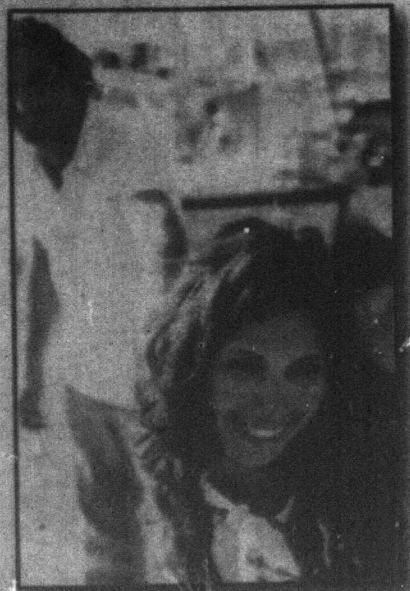
Bruce Cappleman

Director
MBCB Church-Minister Relations Department

For more information, contact:
Pam May

Church-Minister Relations Department
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or E-mail mpmay@mbcb.org

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FBC Vancleave
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228-826-5806

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Associate Pastor/Music Ministries
FBC, Vancleave

Pianist: Steve Fields

- Dinner provided
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- Door Prizes

PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE at www.fbcvancleave.org/singles or call the church office, NLT October 12

Sponsored by: FBC Vancleave & Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Pray this day for...

SEPTEMBER 25 - OCTOBER 8, 2009

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3204 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"To keep our hand on the plough while wiping away our tears - that is Christianity."

Watchman Nee

(1) Thank God for a successful trip to a North African country by a group of Mississippi Hispanics. Pray as they seek direction for future involvement with this mission field; (2) Pray for the growing Hispanic ministry in Mississippi. Pray for wisdom for these Hispanic pastors.

(1) Mississippi Baptist College Day (MBCB Emphasis); (2) Pray for Christian leaders in Myanmar, a Buddhist country. Pastors are often ordered to shut their churches down. Pray for courage and boldness among the believers in Myanmar.

(1) Statewide Discipleship Emphasis Day (D&FM Emphasis); (2) A Hindu lady had recently prayed to receive Christ. She came from the highest caste of Indians and could face persecution for her decision. Pray that God will protect her and help her grow in Him.

(1) Church Related Vocations Banquet, Mississippi College, Clinton (P/LD); (2) Pray for the outreach to college students in India as the future of the country will be in the hands of these students. Pray that many will come to know Jesus and become grounded in His Word.

G and A are workers in SE Asia who will soon be state-side in Mississippi. Pray that A will get some much needed rest as instructed by her doctor. Pray for the Holy Spirit to send a wind of refreshment and renewed vision for all of our missionaries, both state-side and abroad.

Pray for Bernie, Randy and Chancey, recently baptized new believers at Urban Village Church in Vancouver. Pray for them as they are disciplined and learning to walk by faith in Jesus Christ.

Praise God that a doctor was able to get a visa back into his country of service in Southeast Asia. Pray for direction as he seeks to serve in a difficult area. Pray that God will open doors for the Gospel to be shared. Pray for others missionaries struggling to get renewed visas.

(1) Baptist Building AT HOME DAYS; (2) Pray for the multitudes of Chinese students who come to the USA to study and do research. Most of them are atheist. Pray that God will plant a seed of the truth in their hearts to make them hungry to know the true and living God.

Missionaries often face difficult challenges in their personal life as they serve. Please pray for D as he serves in central Asia. He has recently lost his father, and he is facing back surgery.

(1) "Joy of Missions" Women's Event, Orlando, FL (MMU); (2) Pray for the many Korean Christians who are spreading out all over the world as missionaries. Pray that they will easily learn the language and culture in the country in which they serve.

(1) Handbell Leadership Seminar, FBC, Pearl, 25th-26th (CM); (2) State College Student Conference, Morrison Heights BC, Clinton, 26th-26th (CLGM); (3) Deaf Ministry Conference, Garaywa, Clinton, 25th-27th (MS).

(1) State Church Library Ministry Conference, FBC, Corinth, 2nd-3rd (CS); (2) Mother/Daughter Overnight, Garaywa, Clinton, 2nd-3rd (MMU); (3) Pray for our country. Pray that God will send a revival of conviction of sin and repentance within our churches.

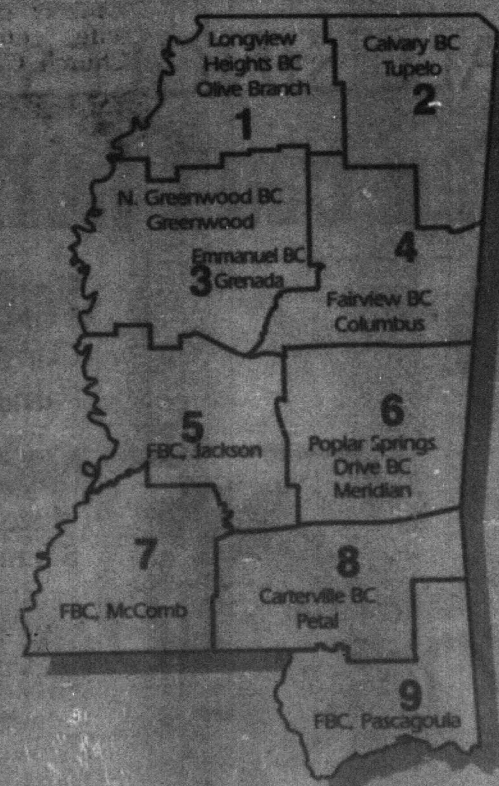
(1) Pray for Dan Duffy as he visits Mississippi to make connections with pastors and music ministers who will be leading simultaneous revivals in 2010 in Ohio; (2) Pray for the International Mission Board and the decisions ahead in light of Jerry Rankin's retirement effective on July 31, 2010.

(1) Terry Sharp relates to associations and state conventions for the International Mission Board. Pray for Terry's wife as she is dealing with very difficult health issues; (2) Pray that our Mississippi churches will be examples to their communities of the character of Christ.

AREA KEYBOARD FESTIVALS 2010 CALENDAR & LOCATIONS

AREA	LOCATION	FESTIVAL LEADER	PHONE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2010 - 6:30-8:30 p.m.			
2	Calvary BC 501 W. Main Street, Tupelo, 38804	Doug Spires	(C) 662-842-3338
4	Fairview BC 127 Airline Rd., Columbus, 39702	Slater Murphy	(C) 662-328-2924
5	FBC 431 N. State St., Jackson, 39201	Wyndy South	(O) 601-292-3272
6	Poplar Springs Dr. BC 4032 Poplar Springs Dr., Meridian, 39305	Michael Gibson	(C) 601-485-5106
7	FBC 1700 Delaware Ave., McComb, 39648	Jane Wilkinson	(C) 601-684-2971
9	FBC 902 Live Oak Ave., Pascagoula, 39567	Michaelle Harrison	(C) 228-762-2343
FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2010 - 6:30-8:30 p.m.			
1	Longview Heights BC 4501 Goodman Rd., Olive Branch, 38654	Ada Cates Blake Krumalis	(C) 662-895-1900
8	Cartersville BC 1115 Cartersville Rd., Petal, 39465	Kathy Vail	(O) 601-318-6417
SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2010 - 9:30 a.m.-noon			
3	Emmanuel BC 245 Meadowbrook Rd., Grenada, 38901	Barry Worrell	(C) 662-226-5316
3	North Greenwood BC 615 Grand Blvd., Greenwood, 38930	Patricia Ethridge	(C) 662-453-2801

(H) - Home / (C) - Church / (O) - Office



For more information, contact:
Wyndy South
1-800-748-1651, ext. 272
1-601-292-3272
wsouth@mbcb.org

HOUSE TOPS

High school leaders cleared in ACLU contempt case

PENSACOLA, Fla. (BP) — A federal judge on September 17 ruled in favor of high school principal Frank Lay and athletic director Robert Freeman, two Pace (Fl.) High School employees who had faced possible jail time for a prayer said at a gathering on school property.

U.S. District Judge Margaret C. "Casey" Rodgers ruled that Lay and Freeman did not willfully violate a court order when Lay, in his 20th year as the school's principal, asked Freeman to offer a prayer before the meal at a January luncheon in the school's field house with boosters and other adults.

Their prayer came after Rodgers, who was nominated

to the federal bench by former President George W. Bush, issued a January 9 court order forbidding employees from "promoting, advancing, aiding, facilitating, endorsing, or causing religious prayers or devotionals during school sponsored events."

In her September 17 ruling, which came following a day-long trial involving 12 witnesses, Rodgers said the prayer appeared to be spontaneous and not a willful violation of the order. Lay and Freeman, along with witnesses who testified on their behalf, said they believed because the event was for adults and not for students, it fell into a different category and was exempted from the types of school-sponsored activities in which prayer was expressly forbidden.

Rodgers' temporary injunction in January arose

from claims by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in 2008 that teachers and administrators in the school district "endorsed religion."

The case drew national attention, particularly when it appeared possible that two school employees could face jail time for a prayer.

After Rodgers' ruling, Lay and Freeman walked to the steps of the federal court building where they thanked supporters for their prayers. Nearly 500 supporters waited outside the courtroom through torrential downpours and steamy temperatures, marching, praying, reading, and waving American flags.

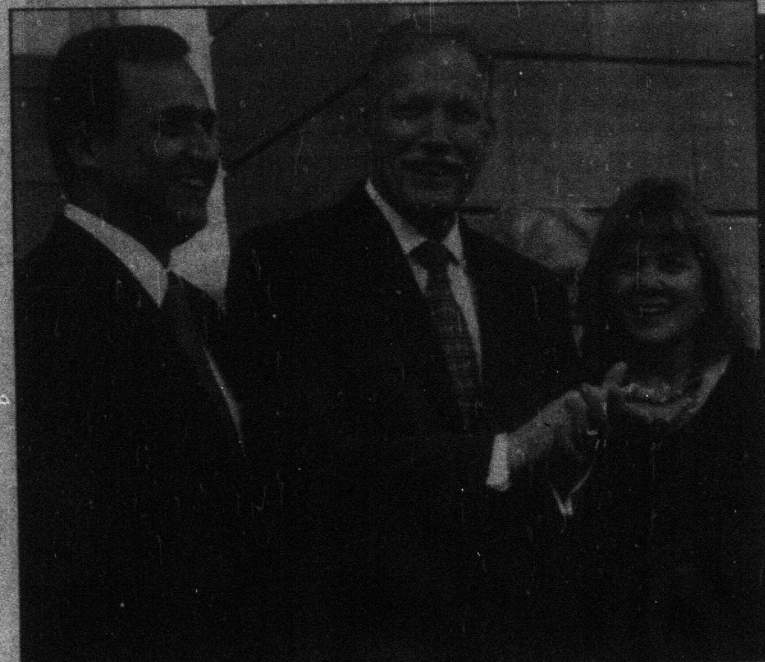
Lay, a deacon at Olive Church in Pensacola, thanked his pastor Ted Traylor and his church family. "Above all, I want to thank the chief counsel, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit," he said.

Freeman added his thanks for the American judicial system and the lawyers who represented the men: Horatio Mihet, senior litigation counsel for Orlando-based Liberty Counsel, and Barry Berozet of Pensacola.

"Let's give God the glory," Freeman said.

Some supporters of Lay and Freeman found it ironic that the hearing came on the 222nd anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution.

Editor's note: For a more in-depth article about the trial and ruling, visit www.FloridaBaptistWitness.com.



AQUITTED — Frank Lay (center) and his wife stand outside the federal courthouse in Pensacola, Fla., on September 17 with his attorney, Horatio Mihet (left), senior litigation counsel for Liberty Counsel, after a federal judge cleared Lay, principal at nearby Pace High School, of contempt charges for asking athletic director Robert Freeman to pray at a booster luncheon at the school. Freeman was also cleared of contempt charges. (BP photo courtesy of Joni B. Hannigan/Florida Baptist Witness)

OBITUARY

1. **Wade Taylor**, 67, associate pastor, Gracewood Church, Southaven, died Aug. 18. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Barbara Sykes Taylor; his mother, Louise Taylor; one sister, Sandra Cook; three sons, Tracy Taylor and his wife Dene; Tim Taylor and wife, Carla; Troy Taylor; and one daughter, Terry Kimble and her husband, Mike. He is also survived by seven grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

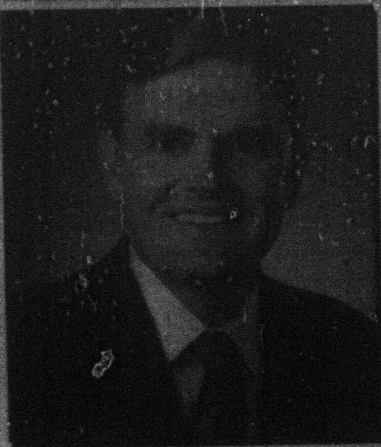
STAFF CHANGES

1. **Joe K. Hill**, Associational Missions Director, Franklin County, is available for pulpit supply, homecomings, and revivals. Phone (601) 373-2459 or 750-3436.
2. **Doug Johnston**, ordained Southern Baptist minister since Oct., 2004, is available for interims, supply, and all other functions throughout central Mississippi. Call (662) 571-4998 or mail to 68 Lungrin Rd., Yazoo City, MS 39194.
3. Parkway Church, Houston, has called **Todd Stanton** as minister of students and associate pastor. Stanton, his wife, Jenny, and daughter Evie come from Clarksdale Church, Clarksdale. Randy Rinehart, pastor.

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Smyrna Church, Hazlehurst:** Homecoming, Oct. 4; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and music by New Again; Chad Ainsworth, pastor.
2. **Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle:** 124th anniversary and homecoming, Oct. 4, 10 a.m.; ribbon cutting for new family life center; Tommy King, speaker.
3. **Sunrise Church, Leake County:** Homecoming, Sept. 27; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by potluck lunch; Junior Hill, speaker. Keith Thompson, pastor.
4. **Branch Church, Morton:** 100th anniversary, Oct. 4; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner; J.B. (Cotton) Miller, speaker; Susan Horton Cokely, music; Timothy Phillipson, pastor.
5. **Liberty Church, Noxapater:** Revival, Oct. 4 - 7; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Douglas, speaker; Dennis Duran, music; Jim Pender, pastor.
6. **New Hope Church, Foxworth:** Homecoming, Oct. 4; Sunday School high attendance, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and 6:30 p.m.; David DeWease, speaker; Mona DeWease and the DeWease family, music.
7. **Bluff Springs Church, Magnolia:** Homecoming and revival, Oct. 4 - 7; Sun., 10 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Bob Lynch and Mike Morris, speakers; Shepherd's Call and Anson Morris, music.
8. **New Hope Church, Starkville:** 125th anniversary, Oct. 4; services, 11 a.m., followed by potluck lunch and 1:30 p.m.; One Way Quartet, music.
9. **First Baptist, Sumrall:** Revival, Oct. 4 - 7; Sun., 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Billy Smith, speaker; Ronnie Cottingham, music.
10. **Victory Church, Mathiston:** Revival, Oct. 4 - 7; Jack Hollingsworth, speaker.
11. **Burch Hill Church, Jackson:** Revival, Oct. 4 - 6; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Tues., 7 p.m.; John Compton, R.E. McCallum, Nathaniel Bragg, and Derrick Rainey, speakers; Chris Collins, Sr., pastor; James Price, Sr., administrative pastor.
12. **Grays Creek Church, Hernando:** 139th homecoming, Oct. 4; worship and praise, 10:30 a.m., followed by potluck dinner.
13. **Liberty Hill Church, Pope:** Revival, Sept. 27 - 30; Provisionals Quartet, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Jody Johnson, Terry Tribble, Paul Middleton, Terry Floyd, and Todd Plunkett, speakers; Dub Wilson, music; Jay Anderson, pastor.
14. **Rawls Springs Church, Hattiesburg:** Revival, Sept. 27 - 30; Sun., 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Randy Turner, speaker; Monty Bounds, music.
15. **Poplar Springs Church, Mendenhall:** 125th anniversary, Sept. 27; worship, 10 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and 1 p.m.; Mike Aultman, Robby Johnson, and Kenneth West, speakers.
16. **Crestview Church, Petal:** Revival, Oct. 4 - 7; Answered Prayer in concert, Oct. 3, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., Jerry Wayne Lowery, speaker; Stevie Dewease, music.
17. **Hope Church, Philadelphia:** Homecoming, Sept. 27; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish luncheon; Allen Herrington, speaker; Faye & Ruben Moore and William Crenshaw, music; Dennis Duval, pastor.
18. **Fredonia Church, New Albany:** Homecoming, Sept. 27; worship, 10 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Ferrell Cork, speaker; Mitch Huskison, music; Chris Aldridge, pastor.
19. **New Hope Church, Myrtle:** Revival, Oct. 4 - 7; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Charles Rodgers, speaker; Billy Nelson, music; Tom Sumrall, transitional pastor.
20. **Rolling Creek Church, Quitman:** Revival, Oct. 4 - 7, 7 p.m.; Tom Gilliam, speaker; Beyond the Ashes, music; Ronnie Cooper, pastor.
21. **First Church of Pecan Grove, Ellisville:** Homecoming, Sept. 27; services, 10 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Chris Wheeler, pastor and speaker.
22. **New Prospect Church, Oxford:** Revival, Sept. 27-30; Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; worship 10:30 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; P.J. Scott, speaker; Ken White, pastor.

COLLEGE NEWS



1. Abney



2. Lackey



3. Brown and Meade

1. The Mississippi College School of Business will host speaker David Abney, COO at United Parcel Service Oct. 8, 11 a.m. Abney is a Mississippi native and Delta State University graduate.

2. Mississippi College leaders have chosen Judge Henry Lackey 2009 Alumnus of the Year. Lackey has been a member of the Mississippi Bar for 43 years and has been a circuit judge in the Third Circuit District of North Mississippi for 16 years.

3. William Carey University has received a Marie Hull landscape watercolor, Valley Snow, from Shirley Brown of Hattiesburg. Shown are Brown and Lucille Parker Gallery curator Chatham Meade.

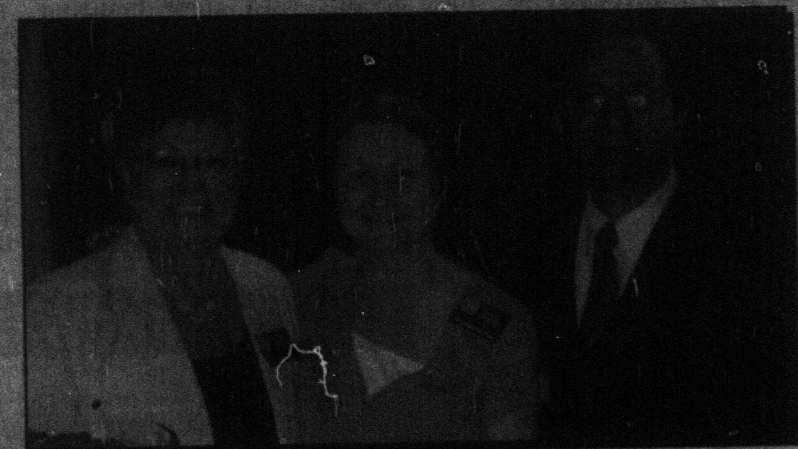
4. The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board sponsored its annual banquet for Church Related Vocations students at William Carey University recently. Shown are CRV officers with director treasurer for the Mississippi Baptist Convention: Jamie Pippin of Fairhope, Ala.; Daniel Sanford of Hattiesburg; Jim Futral; Lee Cormier of Pearl River, La.; and T.J. Bates of Pelahatchie.

5. For the first time in its 137-year history, Blue Mountain College enrollment has reached 500 students. This increase represents a 7% increase above a year ago.

6. William Carey University is hosting A Grand Night for Singing Sept. 25, 7 p.m., honoring retired music professor



4. CRV banquet, William Carey University



8. Bennett recognition

Josephine D'Arpa. \$5 minimum donation for admission. For information, call Susan Dickey at (601) 318-6168.

7. Mississippi College has a record enrollment of 262 students in its M.B.A. program this fall.

8. Becky Bennett, left, was recently honored at the beginning of her 31st year as a member of the Blue Mountain College administration. Bennett, vice president for enrollment services and dean of students at BMC, was surprised by Joyce Peters, the college's chief financial officer, and Ron Meeks, director of church relations at the school.

9. Nominations for charter members to the Blue Mountain College Sports Hall of Fame are being accepted at the college. Toppers athletic director Lavon Driskell said. Letters of nomination should include as much biographical and statistical information as possible, as well as supporting statements, and should be mailed to Driskell at BMC Sports Hall of Fame; P.O. Box 160; Blue Mountain College; Blue Mountain, MS 38610 - or sent to Driskell via email at ldriskell@bmc.edu with "BMC Hall of Fame" in the subject line. Information can also be accessed at www.bmcports.com.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, McMinnville, TN, is seeking a full-time Senior Pastor, called by the Holy Spirit, who loves God, loves people, and, above all, has a passion for Christ. Resume and DVD of recent sermon required. Send to FBC, 403 N. Spring St., McMinnville, TN 37110. Deadline for acceptance of resume and DVD is Oct. 31.

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BAPTIST CHURCH IN LAUDERDALE County is seeking a part-time Minister of Music. Send resume to Personnel Committee, P.O. Box 3231, Meridian MS 39305.

FBC, BOYLE, MS IS SEEKING resumes for a Pastor to lead our church according to God's will. Qualifications will be those set forth in the New Testament 1 Timothy 3. Submittal deadline is Sept. 30. Please forward resume to: FBC Boyle c/o PSC, P. O. Box 218, Boyle, MS 38730.

BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF STUDENTS for growing youth ministry. Must be God-focused, visionary, motivated. Willing to work into full-time position in near future. Students also welcome to apply. Submit resume to Johns Baptist Church Youth Search, 5413 Highway 18, Brandon, MS 39042.

BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC for contemporary praise and worship with band and singers. Willing to work into full-time position. Students also welcome to apply. Submit resume to Johns Baptist Church Music Search, 5413 Highway 18, Brandon, MS 39042.

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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

The Results of Knowing Jesus

Mark 8:31-38; 9:33-37; 10:32-34

By Ken Anderson

Calvin Miller shared his conversation with a medical doctor in the lonely outposts of the Arab world. The doctor said, "How do you think I feel in longing to lead people to Christ, knowing that the moment my patients receive Christ, they face a life-and-death contempt in this culture?" Then he added, "This is the point of the Gospel, the cost and consequence of receiving Christ is the entire point of Luke 9:23: 'Take up your cross and follow me' (Jesus Loves Me, 2002). The focal truth of this lesson is that knowing and following Jesus results in a willingness to deny self, serve others, and suffer for His sake. In this study Jesus predicted the necessity of His death three times (8:31, 9:31, 10:33) and taught the disciples the cost of following Him.

First Announcement:
8:31-38:

At Caesarea Philippi Jesus first announced His death, which was followed by Peter's rebuke of Christ's prediction (v. 31-32). Christ used the occasion to teach three necessary actions essential for a disciple.

First, Deny Self - 8:34a: It is important to understand what self-denial is not. It is not refusing a favorite food or activity, or things. Rather, it is to reject self as the ruling, controlling element in life. Ray F. Robbins wrote: "... He must place the service of God above the gratification of personal desires. This involves the constant readiness to sacrifice self ..." (The Life and Ministry of Our Lord, p. 104).

Second, Take Up a Cross - 8:34b: To take up one's cross is not bearing some personal burdens, as in caring for a

loved one. That is a great virtue. However, the cross in Roman society was an instrument of execution. A person sentenced to be crucified was commanded to bear the horizontal beam of his cross to the place of execution.

A follower of Christ willingly and daily takes up the cross with the self-sacrifices that occur on a cross.

Third, Follow Christ - 8:34b: To travel the path of Christ is not a one-time or occasional act, but a continual, habitual, lifestyle relationship.

There are positive results from such denial and sacrifice (8:35-38). First, a person would save his "soul-life." Here, Christ used a paradox of finding and losing. By losing one's life for Christ, one finds one's "life" (KJV) or "soul" (NIV) here and hereafter. In eternal values there is no profit if both the "soul" (KJV) and "life" (HCSB) is lost. The material gains of this world cannot redeem a "soul-life," nor be exchanged for it.

But the good news is in Christ: "... we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sin according to the riches of His grace" (Eph. 1:7 KJV).

The second result is that Christ said he would "confess" or "acknowledge as mine" those who openly and all the way acknowledged him before men.

Second Announcement:
9:33-37:

The disciples' journey to Capernaum revealed their attitude of self-promotion rather than self-denial, sacrifice, and suffering. Jesus knew of their debate over who was "king of the mountain" and asked for a confession. Receiving no response, Christ patiently taught them that positions in the Kingdom of God are opposite to those of the world. He took a child to illustrate His point. W.R. Bowie captured the implications of this: "A child can give no honors. A child can give no reward - except the most precious reward of a love that will answer love. Every decent heart forgives himself

and his own advantage when a child needs him. Not in self-assertions, but in service you will in that life be great" (The Compassionate Christ, p. 138).

Third Announcement:
Mark 10:32-34:

On their way to Jerusalem, Christ again announced His death. This trip was marked by the disciples' astonishment and fear. They had freely and sacrificially left all to follow Christ. Now, they were following a "dead man walking." They did not understand all of Christ's teachings nor their experiences with Him; nevertheless, they continued to follow Him.

Insights: Some would gladly choose to "gain the whole world" or even a small slice of it, the assumption being that having and stockpiling stuff is the total aim of life. The gospel of Christ calls for the self-denial and surrender to Christ as one's Lord and Savior. This is the key to a full and meaningful life here and hereafter.

Anderson is Transitional Pastor, Tremont First Baptist Church, Tremont.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

God Is Great

Psalms 135

By Ginger M. Caughman

"Praise the name of the Lord!" (v. 1). "We do not praise enough and cannot praise too much. (Spurgeon)" Elsie Rives, a servant of the Lord (v. 1), loved to sing, "God is great and God is glorious. Let us praise Him every day!"

Our Great God vv. 1-12, 19-21

For the music, look for a slim salmon-colored volume in your church library or a children's department cabinet: "Songs for Children" (originally "Songs for Primaries"). Elsie loved God and loved children and worked tirelessly across our Southern Baptist Convention training children's workers. I met Elsie at Glorieta, our lovely Baptist assembly in New Mexico. Once I tried a relief map of Palestine with salt and flour on a huge board, only once! It was in Elsie's purple book, "Guiding

Children," (long out-of-print since 1981, Convention, 1969) a great resource for Bible Learning Projects.

My class of sixth-grade "Bible Searchers" met on a Saturday so we wouldn't take too much Sunday morning Bible-teaching time. Elsie and Editor Dolores Baker had emphasized and reinforced with a filmstrip (!) a sentence that bored into my mind and has remained all these years: "Beware lest the production become an end in itself." What a message for the church today. The teaching spoke truth to my heart. Teachers have to "hear instruction and be wise" (Prov. 8:33) and, led by God's Spirit, adapt to the needs of your class and your own personality. I wanted my students to finish what we started...but I wasn't proficient in that activity. We gathered, laughed, ate, had fun,



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and strengthened our relationship with each other. We also finished that map! Two of those students, Deena and Robin, now lovely young mothers in Texas and Tennessee, annually mail a family photo. God is great and glorious!

So why, being so careful of the 750 word count, did I take so much space to write about two teachers and students? Just this. God has gloriously placed individuals in each of our lives to encourage us and for us to cheer and support.

Idols Have No Power
vv. 5, 15-18

Praise God the Creator and Lord of creation. Bless the Lord and not an idol (vv. 5, 15-18). A stirring choir anthem proclaims: "You are not a god created by human hands...You are God alone, from before time began!" (© Billy Foote Music, Integrity, 2004). God forbids idolatry for Israel and for us today (See Ex. 20:4, Is. 42:8, Acts 17:29, 1 John 5:21).

Another dramatic choral arrangement declares: "Have you not heard? Do you not know?" quoting Isaiah 40, then proclaiming the majesty of our God! With passion, the music and words blend to declare our God is not clay, silent stone, or a gold-graven image: "Our God Is God!" (Williams/Martin, Glory Sound, 2006).

"Who gave the song its start and whispers to the heart?" What a poignant phrase by J. Paul Williams. Worship with music this week. Let God whisper to your heart through His still small voice (Psalms 46:10)!

Think about our great God. Sit somewhere quietly, preferably where you can see or be outside. Pray the Psalms with the Bible open on you lap. Think of all the wonderful people God placed in your life to help your Christian growth. Praise God for those in your life like these in mine: Sue Wheeler, Juanita Lambert, Frances Bell, Landrum Salley, Hellen Pray Morris, Betty Jean Weeks Dowdle, Dale Gross, Shelby Newman, Sara Frances Mitchell, Jimmie Knox, Jester Summers, Elsie Rives, Dodie

Baker, Karen Harris, Elizabeth Bowne Minn, Hugh Plunkett...and many more. As we pray for the body of Christ in Mississippi and the world, we are praying for many we do not know personally. But we are linked in the Spirit, one in Christ. Read Psalm 136 and note the powerful repetitive phrase, "His love endures forever!"

Special thanks to Nan Craven who organizes all our choir music and pulled two anthems so I could review the words.

Read Psalm 135 again in another translation. Praise God: First: He is GOD! (vv. 1, 5-7). Second: Praise God for your church staff and for the people He has placed in your life (vv. 19-21). Third: Praise God for the experiences He has allowed in your life as He did in the nation Israel to mold you into the image of Christ! (vv. 4-21).

"God is great and God is glorious!" Sing His praises every day!

Caughman teaches the Bible and sings in two choirs at First Church, Magee.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message content of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

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Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



6. Gum Springs Church, Braxton



7. Old Oak Grove, Myrtle



8. Hardy Church, Grenada County



9. Branch Church, Morton



MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

1. Strong Hope Church, Wesson, is sponsoring Hunt for the Crown, an outdoor festival, Sept. 26, 1 p.m. The event features a skeet shoot, 3D bow shoot, kids games, and prizes. Meal at 5 p.m.; worship, 6 p.m.

2. Woodland Church, Columbus, is hosting a women's conference Oct. 3, 9 - 11:30 a.m. Rita Sweatt, guest speaker. Refreshments. Cost, \$3.00. For information or tickets, call (662) 327-6689 or email nancy@woodlandonline.org.

3. Eastview Church, Laurel, will host a reception honoring Bill Chancellor on his 25th anniversary as minister of music Oct. 4, from 2 - 4 p.m.

4. The Christian Women's Job Corps, Tupelo, is sponsoring a conference, Positive Continual Change, led by J. Timothy Neely, Sept. 22, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Evening meal, 5:43 p.m. Call (662) 840-9007 to register.

5. Larue Church, N. Ocean Springs, is hosting a gospel sing featuring The Masters Sound Quartet, Oct. 3, 7 p.m.

6. Gum Springs Church, Braxton, ordained pastor Steve Smith to the gospel ministry and Joe Sanders, Andy Owens, and Dean Barnard as deacons July 12. Shown are Sanders, Owens, Smith, and Barnard.

7. Old Oak Grove, Myrtle, ordained Wayne Hogue and Danny Robinson as deacons. Shown are pastor Bobby Butler, Hogue, Robinson, and Robert Brownlee.

8. Hardy Church, Grenada County, honored Sue Harris Weir, Tony Ray Jones, and Guy Edward Smart for perfect attendance in Sunday School. Shown are the honorees.

9. The WMU of Branch Church, Morton, recently collected items for Baptist Global Response in-home care kits to be used for the care of AIDS victims overseas. Shown are the participants.

10. West Laurel Church, Laurel, recognized church pianist Onida Graves, Sept. 6 with a retirement reception after 29 years of service. Shown is Graves.

11. Straight Bayou Church, Anguilla, honored Wilma McDonald for most of 50 years of service in the church's music ministry for most of 50 years. She was honored by a lunch fellowship and plaque Aug. 30. Shown are McDonald and pastor Tom Metcalf.

12. North Oxford Church, Oxford, presented church organist Faye Minton a certificate from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Church Music department for 50 consecutive years of playing the organ at the church. Shown are pastor Gary Richardson and Minton.

13. New Liberty Church, Scott County, held a baby dedication Feb. 1. Shown are the participants. Paul Smith, pastor.



10. Graves



11. McDonald and Metcalf



12. Richardson and Minton



13. New Liberty Church, Scott County